

A black and white photograph of a garden path leading through trees. The path is in the foreground, leading towards a large, leafy tree on the right. The background is filled with more trees and foliage.

A U S T R A L I A N G A R D E N H I S T O R Y

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Cover: A huge Western Red Cedar with the autumn colours of surrounding trees at Yengo, Mt. Wilson, NSW

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The Australian Garden History Society was formed in 1980 to bring together those with an interest in the various aspects of garden history—horticulture, landscape design, architecture and related subjects. Its prime concern is to promote interest and research into historic gardens as a major component of the National Estate. It aims to look at garden making in a wide historic, literary, artistic and scientific context.

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NEW PLANTS FOR AUSTRALIA

The ships of the First Fleet in 1788 brought new people, new animals and new plants. Plants that European settlers brought with them produced extraordinary changes in our landscape. When European settlers came to Australia it was the only continent other than Antarctica where arable agriculture was not practised. Today, while there are arid parts of Australia where sheep graze on native saltbush, all land cultivated as farms and orchards depends on introduced species. Australia is the only country in the world where, with perhaps one or two exceptions, every edible cultivar and every crop plant is or has been derived from an introduction.¹ Most Australians live in cities – and suburban gardens are to a large extent planted with exotic species.

Involved in this remarkable transfer of plant species, both useful and ornamental – were botanists, working horticulturalists and keen amateurs – and also playing a vital role were the early botanic gardens.

In 1788, with the first ships and the first settlers came live plants and seeds to produce fruit, vegetables, grain and medicinal products. Aboriginal inhabitants of Australia had lived here for some 40,000 years using indigenous plants but the new settlers learnt little from them in those early days and were determined to produce the kind of food to which they were already accustomed.

Near where we find the Sydney Opera House today, the very first farm and garden were established. A garden attached to Government House was used to establish and acclimatise plants before they were distributed to settlers and it was also used as a nursery and clearing house for Australian native plants before these were sent to interested people in Europe. In 1816 the botanist Alan Cunningham was sent out to New South Wales from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, near London and that same year Charles Fraser was appointed as Colonial Botanist and Superintendent of the Government Garden in Sydney. Sydney's Botanic Garden can be said to date back to that year, 1816

– some 28 years after European settlement began – and from that date there were people employed to work as botanists in Australia. In time the botanic garden came to provide a focus for work in the plant sciences.

There were other important groups besides the botanists involved with the importing and distributing of new plants. Amongst them were the commercial nurserymen and there were also groups of enthusiastic, educated people who formed societies such as the Agricultural Society and later the Acclimatization Society.

As new colonies were established and the cities of Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Darwin developed, some kind of botanic garden or government garden was established in each. In Brisbane and Darwin a government garden which later became a botanic garden was established at the time of European settlement in that area; both were used to grow fruit and vegetables in the early days, as also occurred in Hobart. In Melbourne a botanic garden was established only ten years after the city was founded. In Adelaide, after a few unsuccessful attempts, Adelaide Botanic Garden was opened some twenty years after settlement.² Perth was at a disadvantage because of scattered early settlement and its great distance from the rest of the Australian colonies. Initially there was a government garden but there was no botanic garden until the twentieth century.

The curators and directors of these botanic gardens varied in their original training, and in the attention they gave to scientific work, but they all built up collections of plants. The collections could be substantial – that in Adelaide numbered about eight and a half thousand species, recorded in a published catalogue in the late 1870s and by 1890 this may have reached as high as 12,000–13,000. The collection could be used to show settlers what could be grown under local conditions. Plants were named and visitors were helped to identify specimens they had in their

The Museum of Economic Botany at Adelaide Botanic Garden, c.1881



own garden. People made donations of their own plants to the botanic gardens, often in return for cuttings or seeds.

A considerable amount of plant material was obtained by botanic gardens through exchange with other similar establishments. While exchange involved relatively low costs, the work involved with selection and packing the specimens was considerable and large scale exchange was beyond the capacity of those in charge of the smaller, poorly funded institutions.

By the 1870s there were sizeable botanic gardens in Sydney, Hobart, Melbourne and Adelaide in addition to smaller regional ones. In this fairly prosperous decade budgets ranged from a modest £444 in Hobart in 1876 (where the gardens were under the care of the Royal Society) to between £4,500 and £7,000 in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide. These amounts covered salaries, site development and purchase of materials. These colonial botanic gardens were big institutions by nineteenth century standards. An allocation of £6,500 a year might be seen as equivalent to about \$1,560,000 a year today.

Early settlers who established gardens in Australia might bring plant material with them – roots, cuttings or seeds. Some purchased plant material at ports on their voyage. Some purchased material from commercial nurserymen, many swapped with friends or colleagues – and some stole specimens from their neighbours.

Enthusiastic amateurs played an important part in the exchange of plants, both within and outside Australia. These keen amateurs included wealthy settlers who had large gardens and staff to help (some of them trained in big nurseries or on private estates in Britain and continental Europe). The popularity of gardening was such that people might spend a small fortune getting a particular plant – for example, an orchid enthusiast in Manchester spent £300 on an orchid in the middle of the nineteenth century. When Adelaide was established in 1836, one gardening enthusiast actually arrived at the brand new settlement with a glasshouse and camellias as part of his luggage!

There were also the cottagers, people of the modest means who could in Australia acquire what was much more difficult in their country of origin – a house with its own garden plot.

The commercial sector played an important role in exchange. Where a good relationship had been established between a commercial firm (such as Hyères and Son in France, the nurserymen Veitch and Bull in London, or Damann and Co. in Naples) and a collector such as a private individual or a botanist, plant material of interest would be exchanged in addition to the normal commercial transactions.

Valuable information on the international network of exchange is provided by Adelaide Botanic Garden annual reports in the period of Dr. Richard Schomburgk, second director from 1865-1890. These reports provide a complete list of institutions which exchanged plants over a twenty four year period and are supplemented by a collection of receipts for purchases in this period. Exchanges within the British Empire network were very important. Within Australia there were regular exchanges between Schomburgk in Adelaide and his friend, Charles Moore at the Botanic Gardens in Sydney as well as with Melbourne, Brisbane and Hobart. On an international level there were frequent

exchanges with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in England, with South Africa, India and Ceylon, New Zealand and to a lesser extent with the West Indies, Singapore, Mauritius and Hong Kong. But there were also important exchange networks with non-British institutions, in particular with the United States Department of Agriculture, the Botanic Gardens in St. Petersburg in Russia and with Buitenzorg (Bogor) in Java. In the case of these last three it seems that personal contacts between the botanists – in this case between Schomburgk and his colleagues – were as important as the links of the imperial network.

The network of exchange included private individuals who were experimenting with new species in parts of the world where climatic conditions were similar. Sales dockets of purchases for the Adelaide Botanic Gardens indicate that purchases were made from nurserymen, private collectors and seed merchants in Britain, Belgium, Italy, Germany, the United States and New Zealand.

In the early days of Australian botanic gardens nearly two thirds of the plant material sent from Europe might not survive the sea voyage. The development of the Wardian case made a huge difference. This was a sealed container that enabled relatively constant humidity and protection from salt spray. Later the introduction of faster travel using steam ships helped to reduce losses and cheaper, more efficient postage enabled seeds to be posted all over the world.

Alongside these changes were increasing numbers of newspapers and journals and a larger reading public. Enthusiasm for botany, horticulture and agriculture saw the production of textbooks and journals such as the *Gardener's Chronicle* and in these journals these were detailed descriptions of new plants and their cultivation.

Exchange of information was also facilitated by member-
Portrait of Richard Schomburgk, Director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, 1865-1891



Adelaide Botanic Garden

ship of learned societies – or scientific bodies with quite general interests in Britain, continental Europe and the United States. Examples here are the Linnean Society in Britain, the prestigious Leopoldina in Germany or the Horticultural Societies of Philadelphia and San Francisco. One good example is when Schomburgk heard good reports of a species of a clover (*Lezpedezia striata*) in American farming journals. He contacted a colleague from the San Francisco Board of Forestry in order to get it. On another occasion when trying to get seed from a plant native to the Falkland Islands he was first sent some specimens by fellow Leopoldina member, Dr. Phillipi in Santiago, Chile. When the specimens proved to be of the wrong species further plant material was sent from Hungary; the exchange thus involving the Falklands, Britain, Chile, Hungary and South Australia.

Botanists such as Schomburgk or Mueller were sent plant material by colleagues overseas which they could then distribute to other colleagues. For example in the 1870s when there was great concern about the vine disease *Phylloxera*, stock of a vine thought to be resistant to the disease was sent from the United States to a colleague of theirs in New Zealand. He in turn sent it to Australia for distribution.

My own research on Adelaide Botanic Garden has shown that there were strong links in plant exchange between Australia and the United States and Java and with Russia, Germany and France. Those who were enthusiastic about problem solving in the plant sciences adopted a pragmatic approach and contacted enthusiasts in other countries in order to further their research. Newspapers and specialist journals helped with these networks. There are records of readers in remote and tiny settlements in Australia sending to the botanic garden in their nearest city newspaper clippings from Edinburgh or Florida about a new species of interest. Settlers who correspond with relatives and friends overseas might be sent seeds to try. People could write to their nearest metropolitan newspaper or agricultural weekly knowing that information about a new economic plant was newsworthy. Businessmen who attended the big international exhibitions in North America, India, England or continental Europe such as the Paris Exhibition of 1855, the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia of 1876 or the Calcutta Exhibition of 1883 brought back plant products for trials.

The botanic garden in the period 1855-1875 was a multi-functional institution, fulfilling the role later provided by an agricultural college, the present day agricultural institute and forestry board, the present day CSIRO and the state government Department of Agriculture.

In Australia botanic gardens were involved in the promotion of science – demonstrating that science was alive and useful – and they formed a beachhead for scientific development in general. Here we have to realise just how important plant products were in the nineteenth century: this was a time when the petrochemical industry was in its infancy. Plant products were needed not only for food and beverages and for fencing and building construction but for containers (such as baskets or wheat bags), for pharmaceutical products, for adhesives, rope, varnishes and tools. Items as varied as prams for babies, artificial legs for the disabled, wheelbarrows for the garden, carriages for transport or scaffolding for the construction industry required plant products.

It is hard for us to realise today how excited our forbears were about the uses of rubber products. Adelaide Botanic Garden's Museum of Economic Botany was a very substantial building based on its counterpart at Kew, designed to promote plant products.³ There was an entrepreneurial role here for the botanist, because the farmer would not grow some crops until there were processing facilities and the manufacturers would not set up processing facilities until they knew there would be raw material.

Schomburgk and his German born colleague Ferdinand von Mueller in Melbourne were scientists accessible to those members of the general public who had an interest in the plant sciences. They wrote articles, they gave talks to local societies, and were available to people who wanted plants identified. They were immensely enthusiastic about the potential of plant products for commerce and industry and gave evidence to government committees as expert witnesses. The energy of some of those involved was prodigious. Underlying this was a prevailing belief that plants had been created to serve humankind and should be 'exploited by man'. We are now aware of the ecological consequences of colonial period plant introductions. For example, Mueller's enthusiastic introduction of the Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*), a plant which rapidly became an invasive shrub, followed other introductions such as Lantana, Salvation Jane and Prickly Pear (*Lantana camara*, *Echium plantagineum* and *Opuntia* spp.).

This article has stressed the importance of the network of contacts between professional botanists in colonial Australia, the nurserymen and a network of enthusiasts in farm and garden. Early settlers had to work out how to grow plants in Australia, how to develop suitable cultivation techniques for new climatic conditions and how to identify plants appropriate for particular conditions. Those involved in plant introductions into Australia had a curiosity and excitement about the natural world that provided inspiration for other workers – enthusiasm, dedication, perhaps a kind of obsession. Enthusiastic and pragmatic, they were responsible for massive introductions of new plant species to Australia – plant introductions which produced a 'cosmopolitan flora' – and these introductions have changed the face of the settled areas of Australia, for better or for worse.

Pauline Payne

(This article is an edited version of a paper presented at the Australia Garden History Society National Conference held in Adelaide in October 1992).

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An Edwardian estate on the Parramatta River

The landscape history of Yaralla, an historic property at Concord on the Parramatta River, concerns a farm established in the early nineteenth century which, when bought by Thomas Walker, was developed into a Victorian estate featuring a large house, garden and extensive paddocks. Upon the death of Thomas Walker his daughter Eadith inherited the estate and it evolved into a landscape featuring Edwardian innovations of grottos and tennis courts. During this time it became a living and working anachronism subsidised by a substantial family fortune. With the death of Dame Eadith Walker, it then passed into its present institutional health function, valued for location, facilities and extensive grounds.

The estate in its original form was developed as a working farm, supplying fruit and other produce to the colony. An emphasis on horticultural themes was made during the period of the Nicols' ownership with fruits grown in the open paddock and under extensive glasshouses that were described in the auction of the property in September 1840. An extract of the auction circular notes:

A hothouse, with one thousand, nine hundred square feet of glass, furnace and flue complete. Several tropical fruits, especially the Pine apple grow therein, in great perfection.

Nicols had employed Mr Miller, a prominent horticulturist, to set out the orchard and advise him on the types of fruit to be grown, especially citrus.

Nicols died in 1819 the land passed eventually to Isaac David Nicols who, with his brother, mortgaged the property to Thomas Walker in 1840. The estate was a working farm focusing on the commercial attributes of the property, with the 'picturesque' Parramatta River providing a backdrop to the activities. The focus of the property changed under the ownership of Thomas Walker, whose interest, while of a practical nature, saw the 'picturesque' qualities of the

An aerial view of the Dame Eadith Walker estate taken in the 1970s

estate's environment as a major asset to his purchase.

When Thomas Walker bought the land from Nicols, the estate consisted of a substantial area of the point on which Yaralla now stands, an established orchard, the homestead, Woodbine; and a number of outbuildings. The established nature of the orchard would have probably appealed to Walker, a practical man, as it indicated the potential of the land. However, due to the protracted nature of the sale to property the orchard fell into disrepair.

In developing the farm into an estate in the late 1850s, Walker instructed Edmund Blacket, a prominent architect of the time, to design a 'cottage', sited on the low rise adjacent to the river. This 'cottage' was a rather substantial house built in the Italianate style with a four storey campanile tower and was completed in the early 1860s. It was sited to take advantage of the views both up and down the river. The relationship of the house to the river was critical in its siting, being a short walk down to the river thus encouraging transport to the house by water. A number of other houses built by prominent people of the colony had been located around the waterways of Sydney, such as Carthona at Darling Point and Vaucluse House at Parsley Bay and Yaralla followed this trend of large estates taking advantage of the natural attributes of the waterways.

At this time, aesthetic principles of garden design were changing from the simple geometry that had characterised earlier colonial gardens which related in the main to the front face of the house. The new style that took over from this simple geometry was the Picturesque style, which embodied a more studied, leisured atmosphere with features such as wandering paths, grouped shrubs and trees set in lawn. Leisure time was also increasing and with that the concept of the pleasure garden of annuals, hedges and straight walks to the front of the house.



Royal Prince Alfred Hospital archives

Walker was extremely interested in the development of the garden and orchard as evidenced by correspondence of 1857 written from Fort Street, his residence in the city to Brent Clement Rodd, a horticulturist, in which he states among other notes:

My object is to ask your advice in regard to orange trees and I am induced to do so in consequence of Joseph Finne-man the gardener at Iron Cove Bridge who has trees for sale having told me he had grafts from you.

In the first place I wish to know whether I can depend upon Finne-mans' statements as he is a stranger to me; and in the second place whether if he got his grafts from you they are of the kind you would recommend me plant – I am going to plant 8 to 10 dozen orange trees and I am anxious to get them of a proper kind.

I presume you are an experienced orange grower and shall feel obliged if you can and will tell me the sorts you can recommend and if you will give me any hints as to the best way of planting and treating the tree...I am making an orchard and flower garden etc. on the Parramatta River at Concord – If you have any spare roots or cuttings of any kinds I should be glad to have them for I have much space to fill up.

Walker's keen interest in the garden is displayed here with an earnestness for detail and a scale of planting being suggesting broad and extensive plans for the estate.

The description of the house and garden in the *Horticultural magazine* of March 1865, seven years later, presents a picture of a garden being established using the latest techniques:

The passenger up the Parramatta River must have noticed on the southern side, when approaching Ryde, the picturesque Italian looking Villa with its ornamental Campanile Tower.

As our route lay by water, we will enter on our description from the water frontage.

The front bay of the house is a noble piece of...water and has all the necessary appliances applicable to a marine villa, viz. bathing house and splendid jetty and boathouse, various winding walks from the jetty intersect lawns and shrubberies.

To the eastern side what is known as the flower garden. We may state that the head gardener Mr Alexander Stephen has not been long from Scotland and has brought with him and carried out the system so popular in Britain namely ribbon system of flower gardening.

The plot of ground is perfectly oblong and is bounded on three sides by a straight border having ribbons of scarlet geraniums and verbenas running the whole length. The beds on the plot are long and wide in proportion radiating from the centre, with here and there small circular beds filled with *Lobelia erinus*, *Saponica calabrica* [pink] and *Escholtzia californica*.

Some of the main beds have strips of Verbenas, others scarlet Geraniums on their borders with the centre either filled with *Coleus bloomii* or *Salvia splendens* with here and there a plant of *Tritoma ivaria* 'grandiflora' mixed with them.

Note is also made in the article about how the stables are a distance away from the house and that the stables do not form an entry to the house as is found in other colonial houses. The garden was maturing with:

Rarely seen [is] the monstrous growth of roses, various tall and dwarf growing shrubs and a well grown specimen of *Cedrus deodora* in the centre of the round. [The garden] is *ne plus ultra* of neatness and cleanliness.

Reference is made to the new orangery of approximately one acre, the remnant orchard of Nicols being in sad repair, but in 1865 it still retained some trees such as the apples, pears, peaches and nectarines. A large kitchen garden was being established with fencing having 'neat white iron hurdles'.

The form of the garden generally followed formal lawns and planting beds near the house which, following principles of the Picturesque, merged into irregular spotted groups of shrubs and trees, which in turn merged with the paddocks to the southern section of the estate.

Walker's keen interest in the garden and orchard may have been inspired by his visit to Camden Park on his way to Melbourne in 1837. Walker may have bought some plants from Macarthur as he had an established nursery supplying plants to the colony.

Griffiths¹ attributes Walker as having a great gift for landscape gardening and it is generally thought that the framework of Yaralla gardens was designed by him. From the above correspondence there is little doubt that Walker was intimately involved in the establishment and ongoing development of the garden. The main drive, north and north-west garden relating to the river, were developed around the time of the establishment of the house.

On account of the house being new the shrubs generally have not attained the necessary altitude to give the proper appearance which landscape gardening ought to assume, but as we near the house we find their growth has been much more rapid, perhaps longer planted and comprise all the better shrubs used in colonial gardening.

The incorporation of Picturesque landscape principles and the 'working' nature of the vegetable garden and paddock areas retained a degree of self sufficiency, with the estate always having a 'practical' purpose in the cultivation of vegetables and room for livestock.

Consistent with the Victorian interest in horticultural matters, many varieties of plants were established which is reflected in the diversity of planting evident today. The variety of plants included both Australian and exotic plants. Australian plants favoured included figs and Araucarias 'whose form was symmetrical and foliage dark hued as they assisted in creating an exotic impression, and were both decorative and drought hardy'². There was also a determined attempt to establish deciduous trees, a connection with England, but they also provided a fresh green in spring.

By the time of Thomas Walker's death a substantial framework for the garden was established including the 'Italian Garden' with the landscape principles of the Picturesque in place creating a maturing landscape curtilage to the 'cottage' with the campanile tower.

Following the death of Thomas Walker in 1886, Eadith his only daughter inherited the estate. Under her guidance the garden became known in Sydney as a garden show-piece and by 1912 employed twenty four full time gardeners, with a plant nursery and a watering system to sections of the garden. The Victorian estate inherited from her father developed into an Edwardian manor estate with a substantial vegetable garden, paddocks for livestock and houses for the employees living on the estate.

Photographs of the time show large and established

gardens with extensive beds of flowers and shrubs, with a variety of annuals, perennials and shrubs. These gardens reflected the then current vogue of creating a 'show' based on substantial displays of colourful plants. Wisteria clothed the eastern elevation around 1900 and violets were established around the house, mimicking a violet walk, a typical Edwardian feature.

By 1937 the wisteria had been removed. Other changes are indicated, photographs of the house showing many variations of shrubbery to the main north-east lawn with small shrubbery in 1880s, open lawn in 1905 and fairly indistinct shrubbery by about 1910. These changes were fairly typical to the immediate surrounds of the house, various flower schemes being organised on a semi-annual basis.

The development of leisure as a new and important activity resulted in the incorporation of elements such as a tennis court, swimming pool and croquet lawn to the garden. New stables were added with a garage and a number of cottages to house the employees. The orchard was maintained and photographs show protective netting was added.

The improved maintenance techniques of the time including watering systems, mowers and edgers, promoted the dominance of lawns and rose gardens as notable elements of general garden design, this being reflected at Yaralla in the extensive rose garden and broad lawns.

The estate incorporated diverse momentos of Dame Eadith's extensive travels including a Norwegian cottage, Swiss cottage and garden ornaments such as Japanese stone lanterns. These elements were placed in the garden, furnishing the existing spaces, creating further focal points in the overall structure that had been established in her father's time.

With Dame Eadith's benevolent interests, the garden became the centre of many social activities becoming famous for the its garden parties held on a regular basis for various charities. Dame Eadith, despite becoming somewhat of a recluse in her later years, entertained the social elite of Sydney with visitors such as Prince Edward, the future Edward the Seventh, staying at the house in the early 1920s.

The pine trees to the main drive were replaced in the

View of the main jetty c1910. Note the retention of the endemic Eucalyptus tree in the garden



Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Archives

Part of the grotto c1910. The Grotto's form remains intact today

first quarter of the twentieth century with Brush Box trees (*Lophostemum confertus*). They were removed in the section of the drive that was being subdivided south of Nullawalla Avenue not without substantial opposition from Dame Eadith. A visitor in 1929 described the estate as:

a gracious oasis in a desert of red brick...It can still look out over the river with the untroubled superiority of its early Colonial days, can wrap itself in its mantle of wooden acres, serenely oblivious of the indubitable signs of progress which are going on all around it, on both sides of the river for here a turn in the path, there a sweep of lawn or the branches of some great tree will completely shut out from view everything but a vista of garden or parkland, with beyond it a peaceful wooded river prospect, innocent of even a roof.

There is evidence of more trees, both native and exotic in description and photographs of the time. A number of trees, especially the native trees original to the site, were mature and showing the effects of senescent growth. Dame Eadith, instead of having the trees removed completely instructed that the trees be 'left with a 10 or 20 foot stump, over which a kindly garment of creepers is trained'.

Portions of the estate were sold off in the 1920s to maintain moneys in the upkeep of the estate.

The change in the estate's function on the death of Dame Eadith Walker in 1937 has seen the overall form of the estate remaining firmly intact with a decline, decay and removal of a number of the individual landscape components. The auction of the house contents in 1938 featured a number of garden ornaments including seats, cement urns, Japanese stoneware, wishing well and the lawn tennis court.

The high maintenance estate of flower beds, vegetable garden, orchard and detailed landscape features that characterised the garden of Dame Eadith Walker require a far higher maintenance regime than that required for operation of a health facility.

Mathew Taylor

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QUEEN'S GARDENS, BRISBANE

An historic city space under threat

The Queensland Branch has recently registered a strong objection to the proposed casino, hotel and seven storey carpark development within the old Treasury and former Lands Administration buildings and Queen's Gardens in Brisbane.

We are concerned about many aspects of the proposal, but of prime importance to us are the effects upon Queen's Gardens or Queen's Park as it is sometimes known. We felt that much concern has concentrated on the importance of the built elements in the proposal and that the open space between has been almost forgotten.

The precinct surrounding this park has highly significant visual and architectural integrity, as well as immense historical value concerning the continuous history of government occupation and activities and a variety of important social interests. Nearly all these values will be compromised, some irrevocably damaged, in the proposed development. The symbolic nature of the precinct as the centre of Queensland government administration will also be lost.

There are four major values attributable to the public parkland that would all be largely lost in the proposed development, and which were largely or totally omitted from the Conservation Study report prepared as part of the evaluation of the proposal.

1 High Standards of Management

Queen's Gardens is a magnificent example of public garden and gardening technique that is very rare in Brisbane, as well as the rest of the State today. It is a tangible reminder and an educational case study of old-fashioned,

extremely high standards of garden-keeping. This perfection of maintenance, upholding a long tradition, is only practised elsewhere in this State at Government House, Bardon. The lawns are kept immaculate, of bowling green quality, the hedges and shrubs kept exquisitely trimmed, and the garden beds are always tidy, tropical in style, floriferous and fascinating.

2 Social significance

The place is functionally very diverse, being well used and a much admired place. Hoards of school children and teachers on field trips who have come to town to visit 'democracy in action' at Parliament House, stop at Queen's Gardens to rest, recuperate and have refreshment in the shade in summer or the glorious warming winter sunshine.

Jaded office workers and tourists swarm to the park for lunch and the pleasant surroundings – a highly popular green oasis in a hard-surfaced urban desert. Only Anzac Square/Post Office Square offer a possible rival for this honour, but during winter these other places are cold and less than inviting.

We consider the idea of creating 'a contemporary interpretation of the spirit of the parterre layout by Thomas Pye as a forecourt to the [hotel]', as most inappropriate.¹ It indicates both a misreading of the Burra Charter and evidence of a lack of respect or recognition for more recent history.

3 Early garden design layers

The remnants of the first layering of garden design still remain on site – specifically the magnificent statues of Queen Victoria and T. J. Ryan. Strategically positioned to add grandeur to the still friendly garden setting, these two

View over Queen's Gardens with Mt. Coot-tha in background, the old Library on the left and treasury on the right. The statue of Queen Victoria is seen in the foreground with the statue of T. J. Ryan in the background, August 1963



pieces are among the very best public sculptures in the State. Treating such works as mere ornamental objects, to be located as a traffic island centre-piece or standing alone in the footpath with nothing but a 'pavilion' air-duct as an eccentric background, not only belittles the artistry of the sculptors, but mocks the real meaning of the subjects. First there is Queen Victoria, after whom our State is named, who signed the proclamation of separation in 1859 and who resigned for so long with such great effect on our State and nation; and secondly there is T. J. Ryan, who as the first Labor Premier of the State should be remembered with more respect from the current inhabitants of Parliament House. His tragically short life contains the stuff of greatness. Both figures require dignity in setting, a character of direct odds with poker machine-filled casinos and underground car parks.

4 Harry Oakman's design

Perhaps most importantly, the present form of the park was designed by Harry Oakman in 1962, and represents the best maintained and intact example of his special vision remaining in Queensland.² His free-flowing, abstract and modernist approach combined with an innovative use of bold, sub-tropical planting and logical functional planning has become widespread in Brisbane and beyond.

His importance to the profession of landscape architecture in this State is rivalled only to Karl Langer. Apart from being among the first landscape architects in Queensland, Harry Oakman was the very first of such professionals to be employed by the Brisbane City Council (1947-1962) or any other government authority. He was asked to undertake the Queen's Gardens design because the State had no equally qualified designer in their own employ. The architect Graham de Gruchy designed the water feature in the middle of the park.³ While with the BCC he personally prepared designs for most of the major parks. Unlike Queen's Gardens none of these other public parks have survived the ravages of time unscathed, showing various accumulations of later design layers and low maintenance budgets.⁴

He has been enormously influential through his numerous park designs throughout the city and his various published

gardening references. He traded with RBG Kew and other botanic gardens around the world to introduce and trial suitable exotic species we now take for granted, for example, *Tabebuia* spp., *Colvillea racemosa*, *Codiaeum* spp. (Crotons), and various *Hibiscus* spp. He also encouraged the use of Australian native flora whenever possible, eg. *Lophostemon saureolens* (Swamp Box), *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box), *Schefflera actinophylla* (Umbrella Tree), his plantings in Sherwood Arboretum and the Eucalypt forest in Victoria Park on Gregory Terrace among others. His pre-eminence as a source of wide knowledge and experience in subtropical and tropical horticulture remains unaltered and unequalled, even in 1993, when Mr Oakman is in his 87th year.

Harry Oakman's impact upon landscape design and plant usage in Queensland certainly extends further than Karl Langer's influence. Oakman's books were and are read by a wide range of enthusiasts – ranging from the professional designer or horticulturalist to the home-gardener. He has advised other cities in Queensland about special park and garden developments, and about planning issues, including the Townsville Botanic Garden and the new town of Jabiru, now within Kakadu National Park. His influence even extends to Canberra where he spent the end of his professional years as Director of Landscape for the National Capital Development Commission (1963-1973). While in Brisbane he trained several important future park managers such as Lionel Steenblom (Adelaide Botanic Gardens), Alan Wilson (Townsville Botanic Gardens) and Val Ellis (Perth Botanic Gardens).

The special elements that comprise Oakman's Queen's Gardens include a bold, modernist geometrical layout, reminiscent of the highly regarded work of his contemporary Roberto Burle Marx from Brazil. The strong diagonal pathway line is flanked along one side by a unique zig-zag hedge and the other with a single row of *Colvillea racemosa* trees.⁵ Some of the complementary *Colvillea* street tree planting remain in George Street. The William Street shrubbery provides both a spatial background to the open grassed parkland and a subtle foreground setting for the former Library. The especially important vista to Mount Coot-tha (towards which T. J. Ryan is facing), still remains

View of Queen's Gardens towards the old Lands Administration building from Elizabeth Street, August 1963



as Oakman intended in his original design.

Harry Oakman has stated a major guiding principle for his design work was the introduction and use of colourful flowering and foliage plant material.⁶ Queen's Gardens shows ample evidence of this philosophy. The use of bold tropical foliage and flower colours helps to define the place as being Queensland – bold forms and colours for bold people in a difficult climate. The use of fine-leaved *Acalappa compacta* for the hedge creates a strong red-bronze contrast to the bright green of the lawns. The formal massed rose beds adjacent Queen Victoria's figure is an appropriate bridge between nineteenth and twentieth century plantings. Oakman designed and personally chose over a thousand roses for New Farm Park in Brisbane in the 1950s – his botanical knowledge is wide and deep. The massed beds of *Alternanthera dentata* 'Rubicundra' were used extensively by Oakman in other parks but never so well kept or as dramatically used as in the triangular wedges along the Land Administration Building. The interplay here of the bright yellow flowered, grey leaved *Gazania ringens* is very interesting. The *Erythrina caffra* (Kalfir Coral Tree) is the last of three specimens planted in the original design. This species is quite rare in Brisbane and was one of the three preferred types of Coral Trees that Oakman introduced/used.⁷ Similarly, the pair of *Sabal palmetto* (Palmetto Palms), used as feature in the background shrubbery to the sculpture of T. J. Ryan, are very rare in Brisbane, extremely slow growing and so difficult to replace.

The proposed street tree planting of *Archontophoenix alexandrea* is most inappropriate. This palm was not in general use until the 1960s, and has only reached its giddy heights of popularity within the last ten years. Traditionally in Brisbane, the Queen Palm or *Syagrus romanzoffiana* syn. *Arecastrum romanzoffianum* was used for street tree planting, especially along William and George Streets in the city, and for extensive public park and domestic planting.

From an artistic view, the design of this park is unique and very precious. For it to be dismissed as so much the same as anywhere else is scandalous, and obviously assessed by folks unaware of the history of landscape design, plant usage and the climatic character of the coastal south-east Queensland.

There needs to be a creditable Conservation Plan undertaken urgently for Queen's Gardens, that draws on local knowledge and which augments the relatively small amount of research and understanding that exists on the subject. How can any change be undertaken when we know so very little about what we have? How can the applicant's statement of significance be taken seriously when so many errors and omissions seem apparent?

Conclusion

The concern of our members about the loss of our special Queensland cultural heritage is extensive – emotionally, intellectually and philosophically. To have these precious things dismissed as uneconomic or impractical is a totally faulty argument. Tourists come to our State to enjoy the sunshine and soak up the unique atmosphere of our multi-faceted culture. Now they are beginning to notice the unique character includes our very special cultural landscapes. These may not include large numbers of Victorian extravaganzas by



Jeanne Sim

A recent photograph of Queen's Gardens

William Guilfoyle, but the great significance of Harry Oakman dating from the late 1940s, is unquestionable.

The future of Queensland lies in protecting our unique cultural and natural inheritance, and creating a sustainable economic approach that will allow our children to share what we enjoy. The loss of the Queen's Gardens Precinct for the use of a casino, hotel and carpark complex is a short-sighted political decision that may be indicative of the true level of importance that the present State political administration holds for heritage issues.

Finally, the Queensland Branch of the Australian Garden History Society would like to offer its whole-hearted support for the principles and practice by which the Heritage Council operates, and the hope that they may long continue to act as a sage, responsible and impartial umpire for the protection of the public heritage assets of the State.

Jean Seto and Jeanne Sim

(The research for this article was compiled with much appreciated help from several members and friends. The text is an edited version of the Queensland Branch objection.)

Footnotes

- 1 Executive Summary, pg. HS09.
- 2 pers. comm. 3/2/93: Oakman's drawing is dated 3/1/1962 and the State Works drawing was signed on the 7/8/1962. The Allom Lovell Marquis-Kyle Conservation Study erroneously gives the top-billing in design credit to the State Works Department architect Graham de Gruchy [Vol. 1, pg. 132].
- 3 pers. comm. 2/2/93.
- 4 The list of significant parks includes: City Botanic Gardens (pre-1986 redevelopment), New Farm Park, Newstead Park, Bowen Park, Victoria Park, Albert Park, Wickham Park, King Edward Park (Jacob's Ladder), Mt Coot-tha Lookout Surrounds, South Brisbane Memorial Park, High-gate Hill Lookout, Francis Lookout – Corinda, Downey Park – Windsor, Windsor Memorial Park, Sherwood Arboretum, Anzac Park – Toowong (most intact of public parks), Lang Park (mostly removed), Tramline Gardens – Charmside (removed) and still counting.
- 5 These trees have been incorrectly called up as 'poincianas' on the reduced scale survey plan in the Archaeologist's report.
- 6 pers. comm. 2/2/93.
- 7 The others were *Erythrina crista-galli* or Common Coral Tree, an exotic from South America and *E. vespertilio* or Bats Wing Coral Tree, an Australian native.

NATIONAL NEWS

Index to Australian Garden History published

An index to volumes one and two of *Australian Garden History* has been published. This covers the period 1989-91. A complimentary copy is included with this journal and additional individual copies are available from the Australian Garden History Society office for \$3 (postage included).

The index has been prepared by Victorian member Kirstie McRobert. Kirstie is a librarian at the State Library of Victoria and has generously prepared the index on an honorary basis. The index will be a boon to students and researchers and the AGHS thanks Kirstie for her meticulous work in its preparation.

It is hoped to start work shortly on a second index to cover the period 1991-93 (volumes three and four).

Youth membership category established

At the February meeting of the National Management Committee a new youth membership category was established. This followed a recommendation of the newly constituted membership sub-committee of the AGHS National Manage-

ment Committee. The new category will apply to members aged 25 or under. One year's youth membership will cost \$20 and this category will carry all the privileges and benefits as ordinary membership.

It is hoped that the new category will encourage younger members and students to join the AGHS. With an influx of young members the Society can look confidently to the future. All existing members and friends are encouraged to draw this new category to the attention of prospective members, especially amongst students at secondary and tertiary level study.

Assistance with the Journal

The AGHS wishes to thank the following members of the Victorian Branch who helped mail out the previous journal issue: Helen Page, Di Ellerton, Diane Nicholas, Nan Grimwade, Georgina Whitehead and Sue Keon-Cohen. Thanks also to Tropman & Tropman Architects, for the use of their word processing facilities to assist in the publication of this journal issue.

STATE NEWS

Queensland Branch

Recent events

Subsequent to the October meeting called to re-establish a branch of the AGHS in Queensland our enthusiasm for organising activities seems to have been swamped by the usual end of year chaos, and beginning of new year general disorganisation syndrome. However, a formal objection on behalf of the Queensland Branch of the AGHS was organised and submitted to the Heritage Council regarding the proposed destruction of Queens Park as part of the Casino and Hotel Development Proposal for Brisbane (see article on page 9). Plans are currently underway for a visit to gardens in the Mt. Tambourine area towards the end of May.

With the move of Tracie Harvison to Cairns our committee now stands as: Chairperson – Jan Seto, Secretary/Treasurer – position vacant, Committee members – Rosemary Jones, Catherine Brouwer, Tracie Harvison, Journal Representative/Publicity – Richard Jones. It is still hoped to recruit two more committee members, one to represent Central Queensland, and one to represent the Darling Downs area. If there is anyone out there who feels they have a little spare time they could devote to the Secretary/Treasurer position it would be most appreciated. Unfortunately we can only re-establish the branch in spirit, but not in formal reality, if this position is not filled.

Jan Seto

Victorian Branch

Visit to Stonnington, 25 February 1993

Forty members and friends took advantage of the last balmy evening of summer for a ramble in the grounds of one of Melbourne's most complete boom-style mansions, Stonnington, at 336 Glenferrie Road, Malvern. Colin Johnston, of the Friends of Stonnington, took us on a tour of the mansion

that once served as the State's Government House, and pointed out the remarkably detailed workmanship of some interior features. In the grounds, John Hawker directed our attention to the different eras of planting and led us down an original gravel path where a waywood *Eucalyptus pauciflora* (Snow Gum), and other shrubs, reflected the fashion of the 1970s. From the terrace, where we enjoyed wine and cheese to start with, seventy years ago we would have looked across 'to broad pastures [where] sleek Jersey cows browse contentedly'. Now there are Deakin University campus buildings, but also enough of the original grounds and sentinel trees to furnish our imaginations.

Pamela Jellie

Garden Week

The Victorian Branch ever mindful of promoting the activities of the Society took part in the Nurserymen's Association of Victoria annual garden week which ran 6-14 March. garden Week is now held in the Fitzroy Gardens and attracts approximately 80,000 garden enthusiasts. The display stand purchased in 1992 was the focal point of the exhibit which was personned by Victorian branch members for each of the nine days. We were constantly surprised by the numbers of people who claimed not to have heard of the Australian Garden History Society and we were pleased with the amount of interest shown in us. The indications so far are that we have gained new members from this publicity. The results of this first trial participation in Garden Week have been encouraging enough for us to plan for involvement in the 1994 Garden Week. Already we are discussing with other like minded groups the opportunity of staging a combined exhibit to generate more interest.

Helen Page

REPORTS

Lorna Olgivy Watkin (1903-1993)

It is with much sadness that the Australian Garden History Society records the death of Mrs Lorna Watkin of Belmont, Beaufort on 15 February.

The association between the Australian Garden History Society and Belmont began on 24 April 1983, when Victorian members and students of VCAH-Burnley visited the property to undertake the first of many working bees in preparation for the Annual Conference in Ballarat in 1984.

Delegates who attended this conference will have vivid memories of entering the garden at Belmont through the distinctive lych gate and discovering the lovely rambling cottage garden with its profusion of Spring flowers and shrubs.

Regular working bees have continued at Belmont, with Mrs Watkin adopting us all as part of her family and indeed, to many of us, she became part of ours as she related anecdotes from the past and passed on 'words of wisdom' over numerous cups of tea. She loved every inch of the garden at Belmont, from her pot plants on the front verandah, the wall-flowers and roses, to her favourites, the waterlilies on the lake, which were in full bloom last February.

Lorna Watkin was a very special lady, who shared the warmth of her life and lover love of people with us all.

Max Edward Louis Watkin (1902-1993)

It is with further sadness that we also record the death of Mr Max Watkin on 17 April.

Members who have seen the Society's new membership brochure will have noticed a small boy in the foreground of the photograph of Belmont which is featured on the cover. That small boy was Max Watkin.

Mr Watkin, the grandson of the original owner James Frazer Watkin, had lived at Belmont for all of his life. His intimate and detailed knowledge of the property's history, and especially that of the garden, has continually provided us with much valuable information. This became particularly evident during work in the original orchard, following the conservation analysis in 1988, when he directed the labelling of the trees. Every tree which remained from the original orchard was given its correct varietal name. His modest, but enthusiastic guidance during our working bees was much appreciated and enjoyed.

Max Watkin was a quiet and gentle man who shared his love of Belmont and its beautiful garden with all who had the privilege to visit.

To their devoted daughter Jo, son-in-law Bob and family, members of the Australian Garden History Society extend their sincere and deepest sympathy.

Asbley Russell

Sir Harold White and his Garden

Many members of the Australian Garden History Society who attended the Canberra Conference in 1985 will remember visiting the beautiful garden of Sir Harold White in Mugga Way Canberra. Sir Harold died on 31 August 1992, and much concern has been expressed as to the future of his garden. It is the largest private garden in the city and many regard it as the most beautiful; its preservation is an important heritage issue. The Australian Heritage Commission has in fact been concerned and has given it an interim listing with guidelines for its conservation and



Lorna and Max Watkin pictured in their garden at Belmont, September 1991

Richard Atken

for possible development for some parts of the site.

The garden started in 1936 with a three acre site on the most prestigious street in Canberra. A curved drive takes you from the street in to the house, it is lined with Canadian Pinoaks and shrubs, Japonica and Honeysuckle. Behind the house is a sweeping grassed landscape with a willow lined pond, the whole backed by a woodland of exotic trees and shrubs giving a great illusion of space. There is Wisteria and Banksia Roses twining up the trees and gardens of roses, Iris, Agapanthus, Camellias and Rhododendrons. The under-planting is of bulbs, Daffodils, Hyacinth, Freesias and Lily of the Valley and ground covers of Violets, Wild Strawberries, Hellebores, Daisies and Snow in Summer as well as banks of Forget-me-nots. The Virburnums and many fruit trees flower in the spring. John Patrick gives an account of the garden in his book *Australian Gardens*.

Sir Harold White was a librarian, in fact the first National Librarian, who came to Canberra in 1926 with the transfer of the Australian Parliament to the National Capital then emerging from the bush. A graduate of the University of Melbourne with first class honours in French Literature he was Assistant Parliamentary Librarian.

The Library of Parliament was in effect the first 'National Library'. He succeeded the Librarian Kenneth Binns in 1947 and set about the task of developing the national collection of books at the same time that he was making those pioneering efforts at turning his three acres of rough ground into a garden. The National Library was finally established

as a separate entity in 1960 and Sir Harold became the first National Librarian. A Parliamentary Library was set up to serve the needs of Parliamentarians.

Sir Harold and his wife Elizabeth were very much part of the Canberra social scene and welcomed many Australians as well as overseas visitors to their house and garden. His active work in collecting famous books and collections has been

acknowledged elsewhere and they remain his great work for future Australians. His and his wife's work in creating a garden paradise will also, we hope, be preserved and available for others to enjoy. Garden history is concerned with recording such gardens and encouraging their conservation.

Victor Crittenden

LETTERS

Blackwood, Vic. 3458

Two questions. In the preface to the 1983 edition of *The Education of a Gardener* Russell Page mentions that, since the earlier editions, he had made two trips to Western Australia which had given him 'a glimpse of a surprisingly different flora and fauna'. Did he design any gardens during those visits and if so, what is known of them?

Secondly, can anyone in Sydney (or elsewhere) provide me with information about one Edward Blake – a young, but apparently literate, gardener who was transported in 1834 for damaging 100 shrubs near Kings Lynn in Norfolk, England? He landed in Sydney from SS Bengal Merchant on 30 January 1835, and is reputed to have become a 'very well known plantsman in Australia'.

T. T. Garnett, February 1993

Hawthorn, Vic. 3122

I would like to thank Dr B.D. Morley for his interest in the history of the Adelaide City Squares, as evidenced by his

letter in the March/April 1993 issue of this journal.

Having undertaken considerable research into this subject during 1983 and 1984, in preparation for my Master of Landscape Architecture thesis for the University of Melbourne, I was delighted to learn more about the first landscaping of the city squares by George William Francis.

The Annual Reports of the Adelaide City Council provided the source for much of my research, but these however, were only available for the period from 1877-1983. It was therefore most interesting to learn more about the origins of the earlier landscaping in the squares from the quotations from Barbara Best's publication.

One of the advantages of a journal such as *Australian Garden History* is that it provides a forum for the presentation and discussion of research into Australian garden history. As such, it makes a valuable contribution to the documentation, knowledge and understanding of our landscape heritage.

Ashley Russell, April 1993

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

- Sunday 16
Hills Garden Workshop. Completion of documentation of 1992 Workshop

JUNE

VICTORIAN BRANCH

- Tuesday 8
Lecture on Edwardian Gardens, more details to follow.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS/SOUTHERN NSW BRANCH

- Sunday 6
Demonstration of garden construction at Pejar Park, Woodhouselee.
Some of the best tradesmen, craftsman and horticulturists of Southern NSW who contribute to the creation and enhancement of beautiful gardens will be invited to demonstrate and share their practical skills within the garden of Pejar Park. Throughout the day you will be able to observe and be instructed by some of Australia's most experienced stone masons, tree surgeons, irrigation contractors, carpenters, horticulturists and more. Many

facets of garden construction and maintenance will be demonstrated including the pruning of trees, shrubs and roses, the division of perennials, the laying and repair of stonework, the installation of irrigation, the building and repair of timber structures, the use of organic fertilizers, composting, the control of pests and diseases, garden edge construction. BYO Picnic. Afternoon tea provided. **COST** only \$10 – members. **BOOKINGS** and information ph: (048) 218 462 [bh]

TASMANIAN BRANCH

- Wednesday
Winter Lunch and Film Day. A Soup and Sandwich Lunch will be held at Powranna, the home of Mrs Jenny Prevost. Garden videos will be shown including a video of the Beauchard Gardens in British Columbia and the Canadian Redwood Forests. **TIME:** 11.30am **COST:** \$10 members; \$12 non-members. As there is a limit of 40, **BOOKINGS** are essential. Please contact Fairie Nielsen, PH: (004) 330 077.

JULY

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

- Wednesday 7
Annual General Meeting with Guest Speaker

SYDNEY AND NORTHERN NSW BRANCH.

Function in conjunction with the Parks & Gardens Conservation Committee of the National Trust.

ARCADIA IN DANGER

Recording and Conserving Our Vanishing Heritage Parks and Gardens

- Saturday 10
National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill
- Sunday 11
Guided Tour departs Observatory Hill 9.30am. Gardens to be visited include: Erydene, Milson Park, Kirribilli, Juniper Hall, Swains and others.
Experts will be available at each venue to provide information on the history, layout and significance of the garden.

Timetable of workshop events – Saturday 10

- 9.00am Registration
- 9.15am Introduction: Why classification is important – W. Mayne-Wilson.
- 9.45am The Victorian Experience – R. Aitken
- 10.50am Discussion
- 11.50am Conservation Issues – M. Lehany
- 12.30pm Case Study: Rouse Hill – S. Carlin
- 1.15pm Lunch Break with optional Observatory Hill site visit
- 2.00pm Presentation of classification guidelines – W. Mayne-Wilson
- 2.30pm Case studies (the NSW experience) – D. Beaver
- 3.30pm Workshop
- 4.30pm Report back and wrap up
- 5.00pm Drinks in the S H Ervin Gallery (optional)

CHARGE: Workshop, Saturday: \$25.00; Tour, Sunday: \$40.00. Includes: Lunch, Morning and Afternoon Tea both days, and transport (bus) on Sunday. People will be able to book just the Saturday, or both days. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS** contact David Beaver on Ph: (02) 251 3250.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS/SOUTHERN NSW BRANCH

- Sunday 25
Annual General Meeting
3.00 pm at Rotherwood, Sutton Forest.

AUGUST

VICTORIAN BRANCH

- Tuesday 10
Annual General Meeting.
Guest Speaker; Associate Professor Ken Taylor, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Canberra, who will talk on Australian landscape painting from 1788 to the present. **TIME** 8.00pm, National Herbarium.

TASMANIAN BRANCH

- Sunday 15
Annual General Meeting.
Guest Speaker: Mrs Pam Hutchins of Richmond Hill Nursery who will speak on roses. **VENUE:** The Grange, Campbelltown; **TIME:** 2.00pm. Afternoon Tea will be served. **ENQUIRIES:** Fairie Nielsen, PH: (004) 330 077.

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

- Sunday – early August
Exhibition of State Library Archives – Viewing of material relating to West Australian garden history

OCTOBER

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 15-18 October
Annual conference in Tasmania, see page 16.

NOVEMBER

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

- Sunday 7
Guided Tour Narrows Interchange Park. Commentary by its designer John Oldham
- Saturday 27 & Sunday 28
Country Gardens Tour – Pinjarra/Waroona (Combined with Heritage Rose Society)

VICTORIAN BRANCH

- (date to be confirmed)
Tour of the Cathedral Ranges, with Rodger Elliot and visits to historic gardens. More details to follow.

DECEMBER 1993

VICTORIAN BRANCH

- Monday 6
Christmas Party, Herbarium Lawn from 6.00pm followed by talk at 8.00pm.

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10.76 hectare property with red volcanic
soil in Southern Highlands of New South
Wales with natural rainforest. Country
style house with town water, power and
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FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, TASMANIA



Chris Betteridge

The Richmond Bridge built by convict labour in the 1820s in the historic village of Richmond, Tasmania. This is one of the sites to be visited as part of the Fourteenth Annual Conference

The Fourteenth Annual National Conference of the Australian Garden History Society will be held in Tasmania from October 15 to 18 this year.

The theme for the conference is Cottage Gardens and Villages – a theme well suited to this island State. Tasmania is noted for its beautiful scenery, unspoilt villages and rich architectural heritage. Previous conferences have concentrated on the large historic gardens, but this year the emphasis will be on looking at the evolution of the village, both in England and the subsequent development of the Australian village. The conference will look at the cottage gardens which form an integral part of the village landscape.

As well as a comprehensive lecture program, delegates will visit the villages of Richmond, Bothwell and Hamilton, with an optional extra day travelling through the Midlands of Tasmania to Ross, Evandale and lunching at the well known National Trust property of Clarendon. Delegates will then have the option of departing from Launceston Airport on the late afternoon flights or returning to Hobart.

The conference lecture program will be held at the Sheraton Hotel which is situated overlooking the waterfront of

Sullivan's Cove in central Hobart. Delegates can stay at the Sheraton, or at two alternative hotels where block bookings have been made – Lenna, a historic hotel in Battery Point overlooking Salamanca Place or Fountainside, on the City side. The hotels are within walking distance of the Conference venues. Buses will collect delegates from the designated flights on arrival and return delegates to the airport, so no taxis are required!

For those who have a little more time, we recommend that you participate in the official Garden History Tour organised by Helen Andersson which will visit some beautiful gardens in the North of the State and travel down the east coast of Tasmania to Hobart in time for the conference.

The Conference Committee are pleased to advise that two outstanding speakers and well recognised authors have agreed to present the keynote addresses on the English Cottage Garden and the Australian Cottage Garden. Full details of the Conference will be in the Registration Form which will be included in the next issue of the Journal. We look forward to welcoming you all to Tasmania in the Spring.

Ann Cripps